

REMARKS

FIGURES 1-5 have been corrected to house clean, a substitute specification in clean form without markings as to amended material pursuant to *37 CFR § 1.125(c)* is submitted herewith, a marked-up copy of the substitute specification showing the matter being added to and the matter being deleted from the specification of record pursuant to *37 CFR § 1.125(b)(2)* is submitted herewith, claim 8 has been cancelled, and claims 1-7 have been amended.

Applicant requests further examination and reconsideration of claims 1-7 now pending in the application.

If the specification and/or claims should require any further amendment, the kind assistance of the Examiner in entering an Examiner's Amendment would be gratefully appreciated.

The last Office Action dated January 31, 2003 has been carefully considered and indicates that:

- a) The drawings are objected to under *37 CFR § 1.83(a)*;
- b) The specification is rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph*;
- c) Claims 1-8 are objected to;
- d) Claims 1-8 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph*;
- e) Claims 1-7 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 103(a)* as being unpatentable over Hellrich; and

- f) Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, *first paragraph*.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a), applicant respectfully submits that both **FIGURES 3 and 4** of the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in both claims 3 and 4 and that **FIGURE 5** of the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in claim 5.

In view of both **FIGURES 3 and 4** of the drawing showing every feature of the invention specified in both claims 3 and 4 and **FIGURE 5** of the drawing showing every feature of the invention specified in claim 5, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) are no longer tenable and that applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, *first paragraph*, applicant:

1. Submits herewith a substitute specification in clean form without markings as to amended material pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(c).
2. Submits herewith a marked-up copy of the substitute specification showing the matter being added to and the matter being deleted from the specification of record pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(b)(2),

3. Respectfully submits that the substitute specification pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(c) includes no new matter pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(b)(1).

In view of the submission herewith of a substitute specification in clean form without markings as to amended material pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(c), the submission herewith of a marked-up copy of the substitute specification showing the matter being added to and the matter being deleted from the specification of record pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(b)(2), and the respectful submission that the substitute specification pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(c) includes no new matter pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125(b)(1), applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, *first paragraph*, are no longer tenable and that applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claims 1-8, applicant:

1. Has cancelled claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Has amended line 1 of claims 1-7 to change "**lamp**" to **--lamps--**, as required by the Examiner.
3. Has amended line 5 of claim 1 to change "**braches**" to **--branches--**, as required by the Examiner.
4. Has amended line 6 of claim 1 to change "**lamp**" to **--lamps--**, as required by the Examiner.

5. Has amended lines 6-7 of claim 1 to change “**more than one palm-shaped branches**” to “**--more than one palm-shaped branch--**”, as required by the Examiner.
6. Has amended line 10 of claim 1 to change “**is**” to “**--are--**”, as required by the Examiner.
7. Has amended line 5 of claim 1 to change “**the cord part**” to “**--a cord part--**” to eliminate a need for antecedent basis for the limitation.
8. Has amended line 8 of claim 1 to change “**the tip end**” to “**--a tip end--**” to eliminate a need for antecedent basis for the limitation.
9. Has amended line 9 of claim 1 to change “**the cords**” to “**--a cord--**” to eliminate a need for antecedent basis for the limitation.
10. Has amended line 9 of claim 1 to change “**the core shaft**” to “**--a core shaft--**” to eliminate a need for antecedent basis for the limitation.
11. Has amended line 10 of claim 1 to change “**the clusters**” to “**--clusters--**” to eliminate a need for antecedent basis for the limitation.
12. Respectfully submits that there is only one type of branch and that they are arranged and located around the trunk. The cords of the strings of decorating lamps are formed into palm-shapes which define the shape of the branch *ergo* palm-shaped branch. The clusters of needle-shaped leaves follow the shape of the cords of the strings of decorating lamps and emanate out from the core shaft and have their proximal ends

along with the cords of the strings of decorating lamps affixed to the core shaft by the belt and have their proximal ends affixed to the lamp-holders by the retainers.

13. Has amended line 10 of claim 1 to change “**synchronously**” to --**simultaneously**-- to indicate that the core shaft and the cords are hidden simultaneously as the clusters of needle-shaped leaves are bound to the core shaft by the belt.
14. Has amended line 2 and 3 of claim 2 to change “**cou-ple of plug and socket built on the both ends separately**” to --**plug and a socket built on ends thereof, respectfully**-- so as to make clear that one end has a plug thereon and the other end has a socket thereon.
15. Respectfully submits that all or part of the strings of decorating lamps in the same branch or all or part of the strings of decorating lamps in the same orientation are disconnectable from each other by virtue of the “local” connection units, *i.e.*, “local” means at a point of connection.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s grounds for the objection to claims 1-8 are no longer tenable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, *first paragraph*, applicant has:

1. Amended line 5 of claim 1 to delete “**the feather is in there**”.

2. Amended line 3 of claim 1 to delete **“lit-par-lit”**.

In view of the amendment made *supra* to line 5 of claim 1 to delete **“the feather is in there”** and the amendment made *supra* to line 3 of claim 1 to delete **“lit-par-lit”**, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s grounds for the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, *first paragraph*, are no longer tenable and that applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellrich and the Examiner’s objection to claim 8, applicant has:

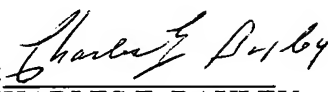
1. Cancelled allowable claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Amended base claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled allowable claim 8.

In view of the cancellation of allowable claim 8 and the amendment made *supra* to base claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled allowable claim 8, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s grounds for the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellrich and the Examiner’s grounds for the objection to claim 8 are no longer tenable and that applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection and the objection be withdrawn.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been carefully considered and duly noted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.
Allowance of claims 1-7 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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**MARKED-UP COPY OF THE
SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
SHOWING THE MATTER BEING ADDED
TO AND THE MATTER BEING
DELETED FROM THE SPECIFICATION
OF RECORD PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §
1.125(b)(2)**

ATTORNEY DOCKET: 13867 B

[[A]] CHRISTMAS TREE STRUCTURE OF DECORATING [[LAMP]] LAMPS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[1.] Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to a Christmas tree structure of ~~deco-rating~~ **decorating** ~~[[lamp]]~~ **lamps**, and more particularly, to ~~[[a]]~~ **Christmas tree-shaped decorating [[lamp]] lamps** without ~~an~~ exposed cord.

[2.] Description of the Prior Art:

~~In accordance with the~~ **A** conventional Christmas tree **comprised of several branches and a main trunk has** attached ~~[[with]]~~ **thereto** ~~decorating lamp[[,]]~~ **it is comprised of** a string of decorating lamps~~[[,]]~~ ~~several branches and a main trunk[[,]]~~ **wherein said . The** branches branch out from the main trunk in **a radial around fashion** and ~~said the~~ string of decorating lamps ~~[[is]]~~ **are** put over the branches ~~of a traditional Christmas tree around~~ by the user ~~self so that it demands~~ **requiring** much time and labor, **especially with** ~~[[the]]~~ larger **Christmas trees** ~~to be deco-rated~~ **being** ~~[[, the]]~~ more difficult ~~to be is~~

1 ~~encountered~~[[,]] ~~and the bared cords of said~~ . The string of ~~[[the]]~~ decorating lamps that
2 are hung over the tree are exposed ~~into the air so as to~~ and make the Christmas tree appear
3 into a fearful mess especially in daytime, ~~[[it]]~~ which not only affects ~~the whole outward its~~
4 appearance, but also ~~[[the]]~~ its value.

5 ~~For overcoming this shortcoming, the inventor had invented a~~ A string of
6 decorating lamps ~~hiding whose~~ cords ~~[[into]]~~ are hidden in the tree's branches and trunk[[,]]
7 ~~which had been~~ is referred to in ~~application and obtained the permission of~~ USA Patent
8 No.: 6,030,670 and Chinese Patent No.: CN97224263.5 and CN97884560.X, in which the
9 shortcomings such ~~[[like mess]]~~ as messy appearance caused by the exposed ~~[[bared]]~~ cords
10 and ~~taking too the~~ much time and labor ~~by putting over~~ required to put the cords over
11 ~~[[had]]~~ have been overcame ~~at all~~[[,]] ~~but that invention can~~ . Such, however, is not
12 ~~[[suit]]~~ suited for locating a string of decorating lamps over an artificial Christmas tree,
13 ~~whether the conventional branches of the Christmas tree wrapped up by a needle-shaped~~
14 ~~leaves belt molded the twisted cords into~~[[,]] ~~or by needle-shaped leaves molded the~~
15 ~~twisted cords~~ ~~[[into]]~~ directly[[,]] ~~they do it does~~ not have a hollow inside for hiding the
16 cords of ~~said the~~ string of ~~deco-rating~~ decorating lamps in.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore a main object of the present invention to provide a Christmas tree structure of decorating ~~[[lamp,]]~~ lamps which can hide most of its cords so as to improve ~~the~~ goods its outward appearance and valuation.

It is ~~a-next~~ another object of the present invention to provide a Christmas tree structure of decorating ~~[[lamp,]]~~ lamps in which the string of decorating lamps can be pre-located on the branches for avoiding the trouble of ~~putting over and~~ wiring the cords by the user ~~[[self]]~~.

It is ~~[[a]]~~ another object of the present invention to provide a ~~Christ-mas~~ Christmas tree structure of decorating ~~[[lamp,]]~~ lamps in which a local connection unit is built coordinating to the number and position of ~~said the~~ branch pre-attached with decorating lamps for plugging in or out so as to make ~~[[store]]~~ storing and ~~transport~~ transporting more convenient.

The present invention is comprised of a proper number of ~~seg-ments~~ segments, wherein each segment includes more than one palm-shaped ~~branches,~~ branch in which the cords ~~[[is]]~~ are located and hidden on a core shaft by wrapping a belt to fasten a cluster of the needle-shaped leaves ~~synchro-nously~~ simultaneously~~[[,]]~~ or by binding a cluster of the needle-shaped leaves ~~molded~~ with the cords molded ~~[[into]]~~ directly thereinto ~~synchronously~~ simultaneously to construct a basic unit of the ~~Christ-mas~~ Christmas tree-shaped decorating ~~[[lamp]]~~ lamps to meet the functions of improving ~~[[whole]]~~ valuation and facility of transportation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

1

2 Fig. 1 is a **scheme diagrammatic view** showing **[[a]]** palm-shaped **[[branch]] branches** of
3 the present invention~~[[.]]~~;

4 Fig. 2 is ~~a **solid**~~ **an** exploded **diagrammatic** view showing binding **[[the]]** cords and **a** cluster
5 of needle-shaped leaves on **[[the]]** **a** core shaft of **[[the]]** **a** palm-shaped branch of the
6 present invention~~[[.]]~~;

7 Fig. 3 is a **[[solid]]** **diagrammatic** view showing the palm-shaped branches **[[in on]]** **of** a
8 segment **attaching attached on-the to a** main trunk in **[[the]]** **a** first embodiment of
9 the **pres-ent present** invention~~[[.]]~~;

10 Fig. 4 is a **[[solid]]** **diagrammatic** view showing a combined state **[[in]]** **of** the first **em-**
11 **bodiment embodiment** of the **pres-ent present** invention~~[[.]]~~; **and**

12 Fig. 5 is a **scheme diagrammatic view** showing **[[the]]** **a** second embodiment of the present
13 invention.

1 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

2 Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, several palm-shaped branches 32 are built on [[the]] a
3 cord 31 of a string of decorating lamps 3 provided by the ~~pre-sent~~ present invention~~[[,]]~~
4 ~~wherein the shape of said palm-shaped branch 32 coordinates to the branch 2's~~
5 ~~about[[,]] and in its . In a~~ tip end of a branch 32, a bulb 33 is connected in electric
6 connection~~[[,]] and the . A~~ lamp-holder of ~~said the~~ bulb 33 has a retainer 331 for fastening
7 on a cluster of [[the]] needle-shaped leaves 22~~[[,]] and the . The~~ cords 31 coordinating to
8 [[the]] a core shaft 21 of [[the]] a branch 32 ~~is located and hid-den~~ are hidden by binding
9 a belt 4 to ~~fastening fasten~~ [[a]] the cluster of [[the]] needle-shaped leaves 22 on ~~said the~~
10 core shaft 21 of ~~said a~~ branch 32 synchronously simultaneously. ~~Said The~~ [[cords]] cord
11 31 of the decorating lamps 3 has a ~~couple of~~ plug 34 and a socket 35 connected on [[the both
12 end separately]] ends thereof, respectively, for series connection, thereby extending ~~said the~~
13 Christmas tree by adding more than one unit of ~~said-branch-2~~ the branches 32 in series
14 connection to meet the necessary [[of]] length of ~~said-branch-2~~ the branches 32 in each ~~seg-~~
15 ment segment.

16 Referring to Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, [[the]] a first embodiment of the present invention is
17 shown~~[[,]] therein-said . The~~ palm-shaped branches 32 of ~~said the~~ string of decorating lamps
18 3 are arranged in a horizontal array around [[the]] a trunk 1, ~~[[and]]~~ in a stepped construction
19 from [[the]] a bottom to [[the]] a top circularly and ~~up-ward~~ upwardly~~[[,]]~~ or from the top
20 to the bottom ~~downward~~ downwardly~~[[,]] but in . In~~ each level, ~~said-branch-2 is the~~
21 branches 32 are retained on ~~said the~~ trunk 1 ~~and the . The~~ string of decorating lamps 3 of
22 each level, via the plug 34 connecting with ~~said the~~ cords 31, connect to [[the]] a power
23 source on ~~said the~~ trunk 1~~[[,]]~~ or the socket 35 located on [[the]] a last level.

1 In ~~[[the]]~~ a second embodiment shown in Fig. 5, ~~said the~~ palm-shaped branch
2 of ~~said the~~ string of decorating lamps 3 are arranged in a vertical array along the trunk 1
3 ~~each]]~~ . Each of them is retained ~~on the~~ at a different level, but ~~[[the]]~~ in a same orientation
4 ~~on the branches 2[[,]]~~ around the trunk 1 ~~different orientation's strings take the same way~~
5 ~~of location~~, and ~~between them~~ by the plugs 34 and the sockets 35 they are connected in a
6 series connection.

7 For ~~concerning the~~ convenience of knocked-down shipping and reinstalling of ~~said~~
8 ~~the~~ branches ~~[[2]] 32~~ with ~~said the~~ trunk 1, all or part of the palm-shaped branches 32 of ~~said~~
9 ~~the~~ string of decorating lamps 3 in ~~[[the]]~~ a same branch ~~[[2]] 32~~ consist of a local connection
10 unit, or all or part in the same ~~ori-entation~~ orientation consist of a local connection unit in
11 the branch ~~[[2]] 32~~. Due to the ~~lo-cal~~ local connection units, the whole tree can be taken apart
12 ~~as in for~~ shipping so that ~~[[the]]~~ production cost is reduced, and the user just ~~[[need]]~~ needs
13 to reinstall every local connection unit following ~~[[the]]~~ a diagram, then cut in the power
14 source at ~~all-in~~ the desired site.

15 Referring to Fig. 1 to Fig. 5, ~~said the~~ lamp-holder holding ~~said the~~ bulb 33 has ~~[[a]]~~
16 ~~the~~ retainer 331 for fastening on the tip end of the cluster of ~~[[the]]~~ needle-shaped leaves 22,
17 and the cords 31 coordinating to the needle-shaped leaves 22 of ~~said the~~ palm-shaped branch
18 32 can be hidden or hung over the bottom side ~~said of the~~ cluster of needle-shaped leaves 22.

ABSTRACT

The present invention is comprised of a A Christmas tree structure of decorating lamps include a proper number of ~~seg-ments~~ segments, wherein each segment includes more than one palm-shaped ~~branches~~ branch[[,]] in which ~~[[the]]~~ cords ~~[[is]]~~ are located and hidden on a core shaft by wrapping a belt to fasten a cluster of ~~[[the]]~~ needle-shaped leaves ~~synchro-nously~~ simultaneously[[,]] or by binding a cluster of ~~[[the]]~~ needle-shaped leaves ~~molded with~~ the cords ~~molded~~ [[into]] directly thereinto ~~synchronously~~ simultaneously to construct a basic unit of the ~~Christ-mas~~ Christmas tree-shaped decorating ~~[[lamp]]~~ lamps to meet the functions of improving ~~[[whole]]~~ valuation and facility of transportation.

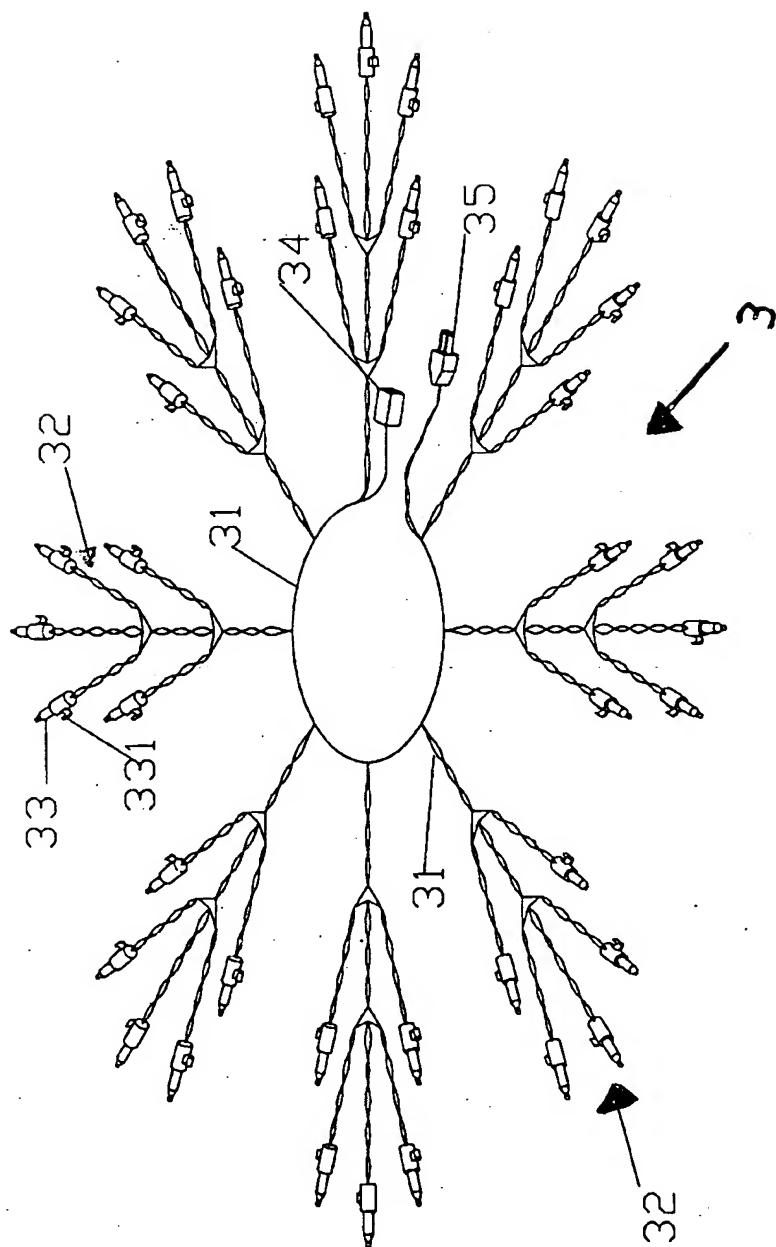


Fig. 1

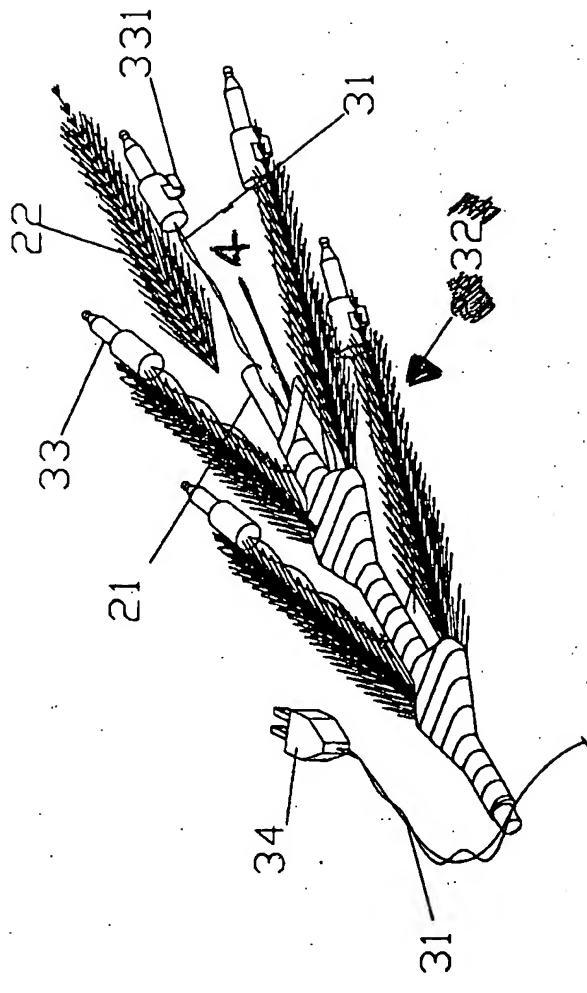


Fig. 2

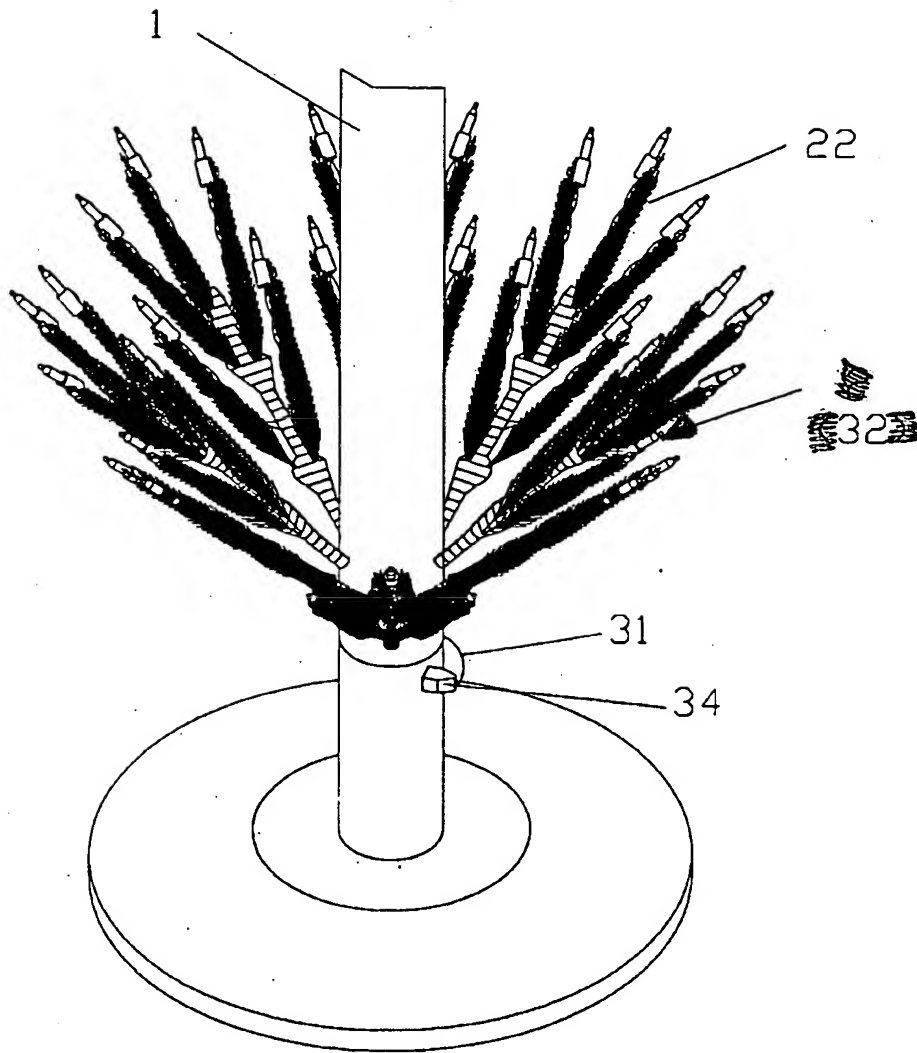


Fig. 3

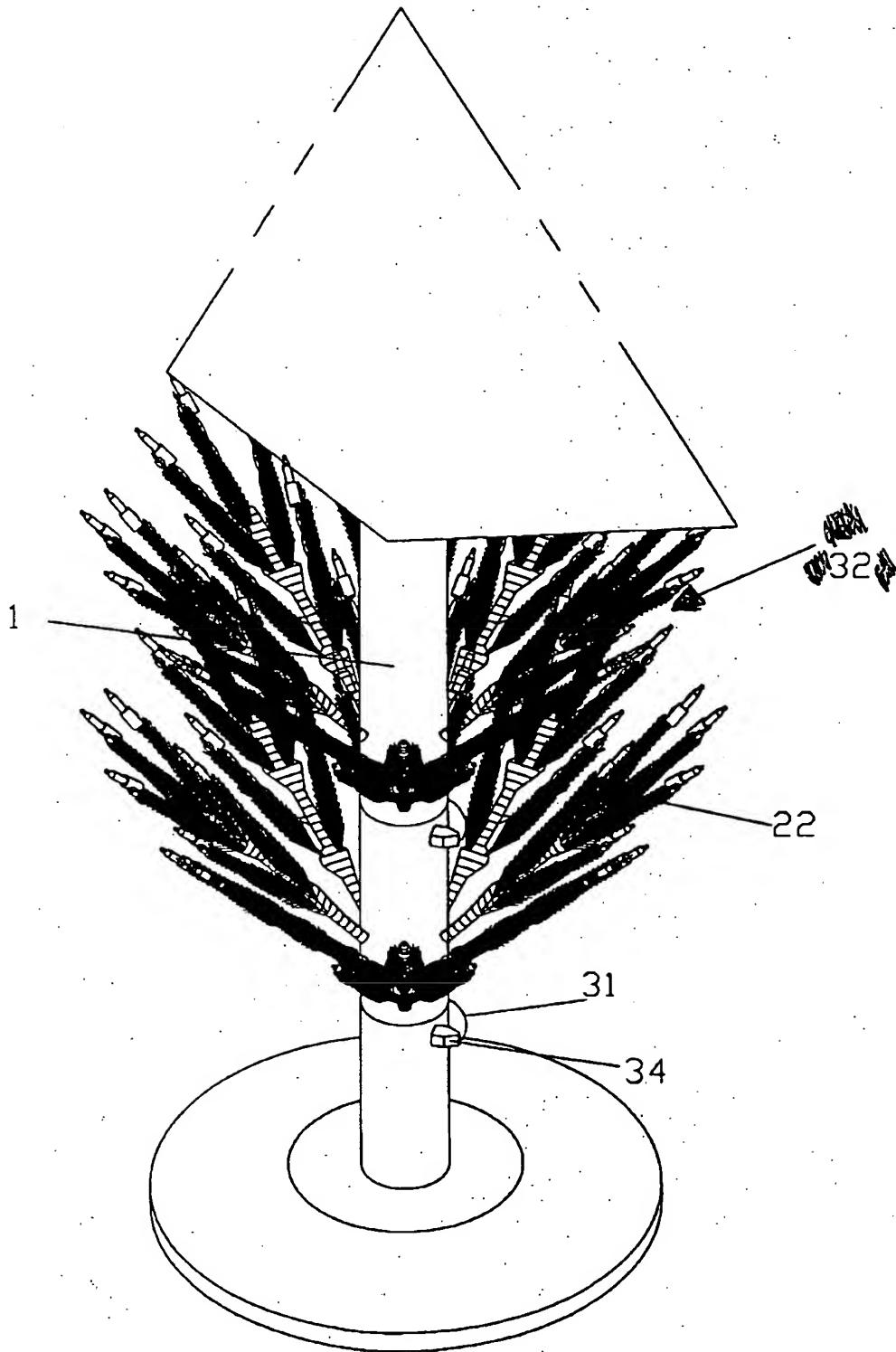


Fig. 4

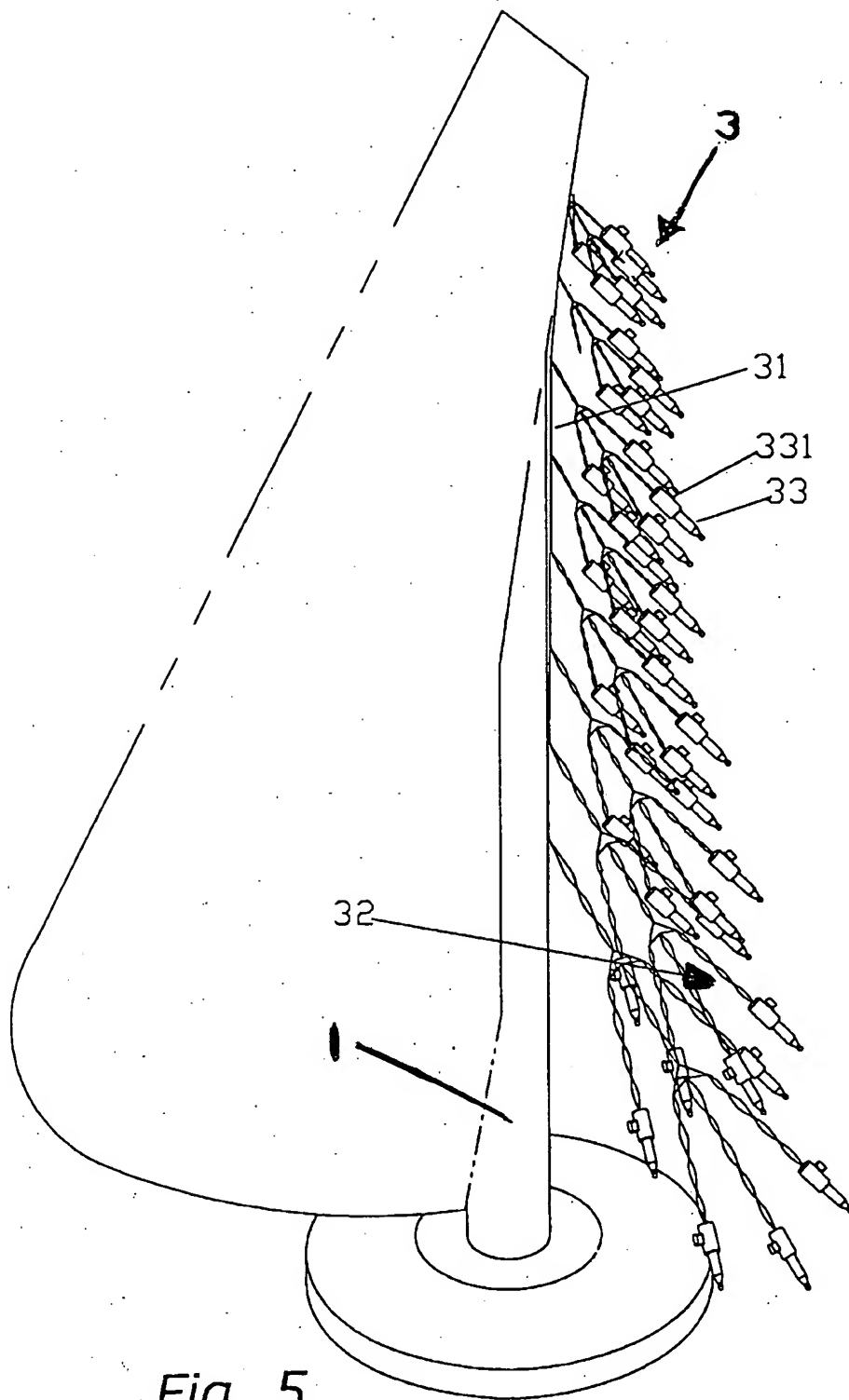


Fig. 5